

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 9 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

F: Metal concentration of ~~control~~ sample medium before biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

G: Carbon concentration of ~~control~~ sample medium before biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

I: Metal concentration of ~~control~~ sample medium after biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 5 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

J: Carbon concentration of ~~control~~ sample medium after biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

D: Carbon content (g) of ~~control~~ sample medium before biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 3 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

E: Carbon content (g) of ~~control~~ sample medium after biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

H: Metal content (g) of ~~control~~ sample medium before biodegradation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1 from the bottom, with the following rewritten paragraph:

K: Metal content (g) of ~~control~~ sample medium after biodegradation. In addition, a metal is used as an internal standard, and  $K=H$ .